



MEMORANDUM

TO: Four-Year Research Universities and Research-Based Not-for-Profit Agencies

FROM: Anne Brinson, Assistant Superintendent
Indiana Department of Education

SUBJECT: Grant Opportunity Announcement

DATE: February 4, 2008

As part of its federal Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems (SLDS) grant, the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) announces the opportunity to submit proposals for grant funds to create and conduct an independent evaluation of the IDOE's SLDS project. The evaluation must be both formative and summative and must be designed to examine IDOE's progress toward accomplishing stated Core Elements of its project, as well as to examine the early outcomes of IDOE's SLDS project. Stated Core Elements for the IDOE SLDS project are to:

- 1) Support a comprehensive, statewide P-20 system that links and integrates data at all levels, including pre-K, K-16, and potentially the workforce.
- 2) Support a comprehensive, statewide P-20 system that allows for links between educator, financial, and building-level data to student-level achievement and course completion data.
- 3) Facilitate and provide leadership for analysis and rigorous research by increasing stakeholder know-how, data integrity, and data accessibility for research-ready queries, while at the same time ensuring confidentiality in accordance with FERPA.
- 4) Ensure timely and accurate submission of required information to federal government, state government, and other entities to meet reporting requirements.

Evaluation questions for this project may include, but are not limited to:

- 1) To what extent is the IDOE implementing project activities with fidelity to its original application?
- 2) To what extent are project activities helping IDOE make progress toward achieving its project core elements?
- 3) To what extent are IDOE project goals connected to a variety of desired short- and medium-term outcomes, such as:
 - ☐ increasing stakeholder awareness of data systems and business intelligence tools;
 - ☐ increasing stakeholder usage of data systems and business intelligence tools;
 - ☐ increasing data-driven instruction in K-12 education;
 - ☐ increasing statewide research projects and evaluations in the education field; and
 - ☐ increasing the number of data- and research-driven education initiatives in the state?
- 4) To what extent are IDOE activities and core elements on track to achieve desired long-term outcomes, such as increasing student achievement, graduation rates, and college attendance and persistence?

The Department has set aside a portion of its SLDS grant funds for this evaluation. For year one (4/08-1/09) , the project award amount may not exceed **\$50,000**. The selected applicant **may** be eligible for extension grant funds to continue independent evaluation in two subsequent years. Extension funds may equal up to **\$60,000** for 2009-2010 and **\$75,000** for 2010-2011. However, applicants should note that any extensions will be contingent upon successful and satisfactory completion of year one activities.

The Department will accept proposals from February 8 - March 10, 2008. Proposals must be **received** no later than 4:00P.M. (EST) on March 10. Proposals should include a description of capacity for this project; a description of unique qualifications for this project, including previously conducted projects or research related to this project; a description of the tools that can be developed with the funding available; a description of activities that will be undertaken to answer evaluation questions; project staff and proposed staff duties; and a budget for year one, with a tentative budget for years two and three (contingent upon successful and satisfactory completion of year one activities). Proposals should be no more than 20 pages in length. The Department estimates that applicants will be informed of acceptance or denial by March 31,2008.

Proposals (an original and one copy) should be submitted by mail to:

Sharon Oshry, Project Manager
Indiana Department of Education
Division of Education Information Systems
Room 229, State House
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Hand-delivered proposals may be dropped off at 151 West Ohio Street, Indianapolis, Indiana.